

Torn

by NormandyStarlight

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Summary: Alexis Shepard (Renegade, Earthborn) wakes up after being dead for two years, and immediately searches for her lost love. When she finally finds him, things don't go so well. What will she do when a new friend starts showing interest in her? Will her feelings for her first love ever change? (Shenko/Shrios, NOT the angsty no one ends up happy kind.) Cover by hazumonster.

1. Chapter 1

Torn â€" Chapter 1

Alexis Shepard awoke coughing, the stench of an electrical fire burning in her nose. She opened her eyes to see where she was, but immediately clenched them back shut; smoke clouded and stung her sapphire orbs the moment she exposed them. Shepard felt only a light layer of fabric covering the top of her body, and deduced she must be wearing a medical gown. _Where the fuck am I? _She thought.

Gagging and coughing from the smoke, she carefully rolled her aching body off the bed and gently guided herself down to lay on the floor, hoping to gain some reprieve from the fumes down there. Every limb and muscle felt stiff. _How long have I been out? _The last thing she remembered was getting spaced above Alchera. She hadn't expected to live after that. _Maybe this is hell. _

Everything seemed blurry, like the morning after a really fun night. Her senses came about one by one; smell, sight, touch, and eventually hearing, which had finally started to function. "Shepard? God, I hope you're hearing this. You have to get out of there!" an unfamiliar voice laced with an Australian accent called out to her. Alexis groaned loudly in response. "Well, I suppose you're awake, then," the voice responded. "Head out of the lab. There's an equipment locker in the next room. You're going to need your weapons and armor."

"Well, thank god for that, because this medical gown is about as

protective as a condom with holes in it," Alexis grumbled as she crawled towards the entrance, her head pounding and body sore.

The voice didn't react to Shepard's quip kindly. "Just getâ€|" Static interrupted the message. _Just as well, _Shepard thought. _Less distractions. _She had always been a trailblazer. Whoever pointed her to the guns had simply done her a favor; she would've figured it out on her own if she had to.

Finally, Shepard reached the door to the lab and forced it open. The next room wasn't nearly as smoky as the one before, so she carefully stood and found the locker. It was full of a brand new set of armor, specially sized to fit her, and a new pistol and shotgun as well. Shepard shook off the gown and quickly donned the armor. She grabbed as many heat sinks for the guns as she could, too, figuring they must be there for a reason.

Alexis heard an explosion come from the other side of the door and her survival instincts clicked in. She ducked into cover and fired up her barrier, her biotics surprisingly stronger than ever. The buzz of the energy surrounding her gave her newfound spirit â€" _time to kick some ass._

The door across the room from her opened and two mechs poured in, firing at will. Shepard captured one in a biotic pull, lifting it helplessly into the air, and then used her pistol to pick its limbs off with precision. She charged the second mech biotically, and when it was stunned, Alexis blasted its head off with her shotgun.

Shepard made her way through the facility, making waste of anything that approached or dared to fire at her, and eventually ran into another living being. A dark skinned human was making work of more mechs across the way. She went into the cover next to him and the two finished taking out the enemies. The man then turned to see who had assisted him, and flinched when he saw her. "Woah, shit, Shepard! I didn't expect to see you up and about."

Alexis narrowed her eyes at the man. "How the hell do you know who I am and where the fuck am I?" She indignantly ordered the questions answered.

He man ejected his empty thermal clip and placed in a new one as he answered her, not looking her in the eye. "The short answer is you're in a facility that just spent the last two years bringing you back to life. Everyone on this station knows who you are."

Shepard felt her heart catch in her throat. _Did he just say "two years?" Bringing me back to life? _

Her mind raced through what the man had just said, noting the repercussions of being gone two years. _Dead. He said you were dead._

Shitâ€|Kaidan.

Alexis could only imagine what Kaidan had gone through after death. As her mind started to drift down that horrible path, she realized that she wasn't even sure he had survived. _There will be time to think about and fix that later. Right now, you have to focus on

getting out of here._

The man cleared his throat after watching Shepard process the news for a few seconds. "Sorry to be so blunt," he apologized. "But we should probably talk about the rest of this later. I'm Jacob Taylor, head of security here."

Shepard looked at him squarely. "No need to apologize. I appreciate the truth. Let's go."

The pair made their way through more of the station, decimated more androids, and finally found another man with lighter skin and a cleanly shaven head, who Shepard vaguely recognized. "Hey you." She abruptly shouted at him. "You were there that time I woke up."

The man wasn't amused. "Yeah, and right now, I've been shot and could really use some damn medigel."

Alexis didn't appreciate his attitude. Sure, she dished out her fair share, but being in charge meant that others rarely gave it back. That, and she was rather frustrated right now due to waking up under attack after apparently being unconscious for two years. She hadn't had time to recharge her patience batteries, yet. Jacob took care of getting medigel for the other guy, who was apparently named Wilson. The two started talking about some chick named Miranda, when Shepard butted in.

"A woman with an Australian accent spoke to me while I was getting out of bed." Shepard paused and realized that the voice had probably done more than Shepard realized, even if she didn't process hearing it right away. "Actually, her voice probably woke me up. She helped me out."

"That's Miranda, for sure," Jacob replied. "There's no way a few mechs wasted her, Wilson. She can handle herself."

"Maybe," the injured man replied gruffly. "But she would know to meet us in the shuttle bay."

"Fair enough," Jacob helped Wilson to his feet and then led the three towards the specified destination.

After fighting their way through more attack drones, they came to the door of the hangar. Wilson opened the door and a gorgeous, long-haired woman with blue-grey eyes stood on the other side, her firearm already drawn. "Nice try, Wilson," she said, firing three times successively at his chest. The man fell, lifeless, and Jacob began to contest her actions. Alexis had recognized the woman's voice, and figured she was Miranda. "Wilson's the one who hacked the mechs to attack us, Jacob. He was trying to kill Shepard along with the rest of us," Miranda explained.

Jacob sighed heavily, not sure how to respond to betrayal from someone he had worked with closely. Alexis was all too familiar with the feeling and broke into the conversation. "I'm not sure I trust any of you, yet."

Miranda placed her free hand on her hip, "Fair enough. You want answers, Shepard. And I don't blame you. But first, let's get the hell out of here."

Alexis had always been slow to trust, but also knew that these people had just saved her life, evidently twice, and it wouldn't make sense to do that just to kill her later. Frustrated with the whole situation, Shepard stepped over Wilson's dead body and followed the pair to the shuttle. As Miranda and Jacob argued, Alexis' mind wandered back to Kaidan â€" she had to find him, and soon.

* * *

><p>AN: I hope you enjoyed the start of this fic! There's going to be a lot of feels and angst and smut later on. Once we get into the relationship parts, I'll tag the top of the chapter so you know which one is featured. I hope to make this make both Shenko (my OTP) and Shrios fans happy!**

**I also posted a one-shot about this character, called "Ticket Out." It's her origin story and it's very raw. **

Reviews are always appreciated!

2. Chapter 2

Torn Chapter 2

A/N: This chapter is NSFW for language. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Alexis sat on her bed in her new, large cabin, and threw a pillow across the length of it.<p>

Fucking Collectors.

She stood, and threw another.

Fucking Illusive Man.

And a third.

Fucking Alliance Brass - Cowards.

And then hurled the fourth and final pillow from her bed.

Fucking Anderson!

She wiped a bit of sweat from her brow; she hadn't been tossing the pillows casually and it was a miracle she hadn't broken anything in her loft.

I need to get a punching bag in here ASAP.

"EDI. Requisition a punching bag for me." Alexis sharply ordered.
"One on a stand. For my cabin."

The electronic voice responded promptly. "Done, Shepard. It will be delivered while we are docked here in Zakera Ward within the hour."

"Good." Shepard said as she picked up the nearest pillow to her and threw it again. The soft white square made a surprisingly significant thud against the empty fish tank.

To say Alexis was angry would be an understatement. Within the past 24 hours, she found out that the Collectors are responsible for the human colonies disappearing, and that the Alliance isn't doing anything about it. When she approached Anderson, he basically said they're in denial and wished Shepard luck, but warned her about Cerberus. Alexis didn't necessarily like working with them either, but she didn't really have much of a choice. Also when she had inquired as to where Kaidan was, Anderson refused to tell her because of her affiliation with a "terrorist organization." To top it all off, the Illusive Man told her that the people she trusted weren't available to help, and instead pointed her in the direction of a bunch of others who were likely cronies of his own. All of these things caused Shepard distress, not to mention recently finding out she had been dead for the past two years.

At least Tali knows you're alive, Shepard thought with the slightest tinge of hope. Alexis was glad she ran into her quarian friend on Freedom's Progress and wished she could have come with her, but understood that Tali had obligations.

But in all of this, what bothered Alexis most was that Kaidan thought she was dead. She needed to correct that. She wanted so badly to see him. Shepard hated to tell Kaidan via extranet, but thought it would be better than him not knowing at all, and knew it was currently her only option since no one would tell her where the hell he was. Alexis decided to try to get a message through to his old address. This is a horrible idea. She thought as she sighed. Her sapphire eyes gazed ahead into the abyss. Even if it does go through, there's no way he'll even believe it's you. He'll think some asshole is fucking with him. Her finger lingered over the "send" button, and with a slight twitch, the message was off.

Half a second later, her omnitool pinged, indicating a message:

Invalid Extranet Address. _

Figures. _

Alexis violently turned off her 'tool and started to suit up. She needed to meet with Kasumi Goto, some thief Tim, which is what she had been calling "The Illusive Man," wanted her to recruit. Miranda and Jacob protested as Shepard headed towards the airlock alone, and she waved them off. Alexis didn't need Tim's compatriots tailing her when she was on the Citadel.

"See ya, Commander," Joker had said in his familiar tone as she approached the door to the airlock. Alexis had to admit that she was grateful that The Illusive Man recruited him. At least she had someone with her who understood what she had been through and who she was before all this happened. Alexis smiled back at Joker, the first she had since this hellish day started. "See ya, Jeffrey." She chuckled as she left, hearing her pilot disapprovingly grumble "oh come on!" Alexis had a habit of calling Joker ridiculous things â€" it was her version of getting back at him for the times he drove her crazy.

Shepard hopped into a skycar and flew over to the area where she would be "meeting" Kasumi. She parked, stepped out, and headed towards the advertisement column. _This is so stupid. _She thought. _I'm going to look like an insane personâ€|not that that's much a stretch. _She sighed heavily and began her interaction with the cylindrical display. She listened closely as Kasumi spoke, and her keen senses picked up on the light surround-sound quality of the audio. Alexis raised an eyebrow, and looked above her at the cat walk. She could see the slight shimmer of someone who was cloaked, and pointed her pistol straight at it.

"I'm sick of playing games," she sharply said. "Show yourself."

Kasumi slowly came into vision as her cloak crackled off. "You certainly don't lack for being street smart." She smiled wryly. "Or patient."

Alexis let out a short chuckle, entertained by Kasumi's sarcasm. "I think we're going to get along just peachy." The last word was said jokingly, but her sentiment was sincere. The two agreed to meet onboard the Normandy. Much to Shepard's delight, the punching bag was already set up in her cabin by the time she returned.

â€|And someone had evidently bought her some fish.

End
file.